



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## California Postsecondary Education Commission Awards Over \$10 Million to Retain Science and Mathematics Teachers

SACRAMENTO, CA — September 19, 2006 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) is funding innovative efforts to keep California's best science and mathematics teachers in the classroom. "California loses about five percent of its experienced math and science teachers each year on top of shortages that already number in the thousands. Addressing this issue is critical to the state's competitiveness," said CPEC Chair Howard Welinsky.

The Commission, through its federally funded Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Program, awarded two grants to support teacher professional development aimed specifically at science and mathematics teacher retention in the state's schools. The California Science Project (CSP) will receive \$5,243,182; the California Mathematics Project (CMP) will receive \$5,250,000. Both the CSP and CMP have a long history of providing university-based teacher professional development.

"In addition to training new teachers, California has to do more to keep the ones we have, especially in science and math. This funding supports and complements an existing state initiative to recruit and train mathematics and science teachers. It is an important target for our grant funding and will build stronger links between higher education and K-12 schools throughout the state," said Murray J. Haberman, the Commission's Executive Director.

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The grants are effective immediately and extend through September 30, 2011. The math project will serve approximately 620 teachers; the science project will serve about 900 teachers. More than 400,000 students will benefit from the training provided to the teachers over the five-year period.

The new grants undergird a strong collaboration between the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU), both of which administer projects to increase the number of undergraduate students preparing to be teachers of science and mathematics. The new CPEC grants will help the two state systems coordinate their work and improve joint efforts to both train *and* retain high quality mathematics and science teachers throughout California.

In commenting on that aspect of the grants, CPEC Chairman Welinsky said, “This level of cooperation and collaboration is a demonstration of how the University of California and the California State University are committed to making sure that students have high quality teachers in mathematics and science. The California Subject Matter Projects have a proud history on both UC and CSU campuses, and we know they will do an outstanding job of supporting teacher retention in California.”

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*The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission’s primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.*